

on the other hand, regarded abortion and infanticide as heathen abominations. Both are forbidden in the "Two Ways," sec. 2. In the laws of the German nations the mother was treated as entitled to decide whether she would bear a child. Abortion produced on her by another was a crime, but not when she produced it on herself. Only in the law of the West Goths was abortion by the mother made criminal, because it was the view that the state was injured.<sup>1</sup> In modern Hungary, at a marriage, the desire to have no children is expressed by a number of ancient and futile usages to prevent child bearing for years, or altogether. Abortion is practiced throughout Hungary by women of all the nationalities. Women rejoice to be barren, and it is not thought creditable to have an infant within two or three years of marriage.<sup>2</sup> Nevertheless the birth rate is very high (thirty-nine per thousand).

324. Illustrations of infanticide. The Australians practiced infanticide almost universally. A woman could not carry two children. Therefore, if she had one who could not yet march, and bore another, the latter was killed. One or both twins were killed. The native men killed half-white children.<sup>3</sup> Australian life was full of privations on account of limited supplies of food and water. The same conditions made wandering a necessity. If a woman had two infants, she could not accompany her husband.<sup>4</sup> One reporter says that the fate of a child "depended much on the condition the country was in at the time (drought, etc.), and the prospect of the mother's rearing it satisfactorily."<sup>5</sup> Sickly and imperfect children were killed because they would require very great care. The first one was also killed because they thought it immature and not worth preserving.<sup>6</sup> Very generally it was eaten that the mother might recover the strength which she had given to it.<sup>7</sup> If there was an older child, he ate of it, in the belief that he might gain strength. Very rarely were more than four children of one woman allowed to grow up.<sup>8</sup> Curr<sup>9</sup> says that before the whites came women bore, on an average, six children each, and that, as a rule, they reared two boys and a girl, the maximum being ten. All authorities agree that if children were spared at birth they were treated with great affection. On the Andaman Islands infanticide was unknown.<sup>10</sup> It was not common on New Zealand. Boys were

wanted as  
warriors, girls as breeders.<sup>11</sup> A missionary reports a case in  
New Guinea  
where the parents of a sickly, peevish child, probably  
teething, calmly

<sup>1</sup> Rudeck, *Oeffentl. Sittlichkeit in Deutschland*, 181.

<sup>2</sup> Temesvary, *Volksbrutiche ttnd Absrglaitben in der  
Gebirtshilfe in Ungarn*<sup>^</sup>  
12-14.

s Ratzel, *Volksrkunde*, II,

59.

<sup>4</sup> Eyre, *Cent. Aust.*, II, 324; Spencer and Gillen, *Cent.  
Aust.*, 51, 264.

<sup>5</sup> JAI, XIII, 137.

<sup>8</sup> Dawson, *West Victoria*<sup>^</sup>

39.

<sup>6</sup> Smyth, *Victoria*<sup>^</sup> I, 52.

<sup>9</sup> *Austr. Race*, I, 70.

<sup>1</sup> *NavararReise*, I, 32.

<sup>10</sup>

JAI, XII, 329.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, XIX, 99.